From: Association of Deputy District Attorneys
To: Kutches, Brandon (SHF)
Subject: Monday Morning Memo for November 19, 2018
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Courts / Rulings

Judge orders Amazon to provide Echo recordings in double homicide case
A judge in New Hampshire has ordered Amazon to release recordings from an Echo device in the Farmington home where two women were found fatally stabbed in January 2017. Judge Steven Houran of Strafford County ordered release of any recordings on Friday, report the Union Leader, WMUR, the Associated Press, Ars Technica and ABC News.
ABA Journal

Strip club's challenge to ordinance fails, writ hearing was fair trial - C.A.
A local strip club has lost its challenge before this district's Court of Appeal seeking to invalidate a county ordinance requiring such establishments to close at 2 a.m., failing to show that a hearing on a petition for a writ of mandate deprived it of an opportunity to present evidence of its contentions.
Metropolitan News-Enterprise

Compelled subsidies and the First Amendment
In the article we argue that both the dissent and the majority opinion were wrong, but about different things. The dissent was wrong to think that public sector unionism justifies a substantial burden on First Amendment activity; but the majority opinion was wrong to think that there was any First Amendment burden in the first place.
Reason

Applying state preclusion rule to Federal dismissal is error
The First District Court of Appeal yesterday revived a case brought by a man who challenged his ineligibility to become a corrections officer based on his prior use of a false social security number, holding that the judge mistakenly applied state rather than federal claim preclusion rules. The opinion was written by Acting Presiding Justice Jon B. Streeter of Div. Four.
Metropolitan News-Enterprise

State board did not forfeit review authority in California attorney's 2010 dismissal, appeals court says
The California State Personnel Board could not - and did not - forfeit its authority in its review of discipline against a former corrections attorney when it initially referred the matter to an administrative law judge, a state appeals court recently ruled. The board's decision to refer review of the attorney's dismissal to the Office of Administrative Hearings did not preclude the board taking any further action, California's 3rd District Court of Appeal said in its 17-page decision handed down Oct. 31.
Legal NewsLine

Ninth Circuit mulls effect of barring evidence at trial of Leroy Baca

Arguments yesterday before the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in the case of United States v. Leroy Baca centered on whether the trial judge erred in excluding testimony that the then-sheriff of Los Angeles County was in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease in 2014 when he gave false statements to federal investigators. Baca, who resigned from office Jan. 31, 2014, was convicted March 15, 2017, of conspiracy, obstruction of justice, and false statements.
Metropolitan News-Enterprise

State Supreme Court refuses to review case of Pasadena man convicted of strangling his ex-girlfriend, mother of his two children
California's Supreme Court has refused to review the case of a Pasadena man who was convicted last year of strangling his ex-girlfriend, the mother of his two children, and leaving her body in her car on a street in Monrovia in 2015. Jose Roberto Turner, 50, is serving a 26-year-to-life prison term for the murder of LaJoya McCoy, 31, of Monrovia, in June 2015.
Pasadena News Now

Prosecutors / Prosecutions

Pasadena man honored for helping put a child molestor behind bars
Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey on Thursday honored a 23-year-old Pasadena man for chasing down a man who was reportedly molesting a five-year-old child in 2016 and waiting until police arrived and arrested the suspect. Daniel Ayard was also recognized for testifying during the trial, which ended with the suspect being sentenced in February to 15 years to life in state prison.
Pasadena Now

Man pleads guilty to 'swatting' hoax that resulted in a fatal shooting
A California man pleaded guilty on Tuesday to making dozens of hoax phone calls during which he reported fake crimes, including one high-profile call last year that resulted in another man in Wichita, Kan., being fatally shot by a police officer. Under a plea agreement, the caller, Tyler Barriss, 25, of Los Angeles, will serve between 20 and 25 years in prison for making the false reports by phone, a practice known as swatting.
New York Times

Father charged with intentionally driving his family off San Pedro pier in 2015 insurance scheme
A 44-year-old man has been arrested on charges that he deliberately drove his domestic partner and two young sons off a San Pedro pier to collect accidental death insurance policies he had purchased on their lives, federal prosecutors announced Tuesday. The two boys, 8-year-old Abdelkrim Elmezayen and 13-year-old Elhassan Elmezayen, died at a

hospital after the April 9, 2015, car crash.
ABC7

This California Supreme Court case could ease cities' pension crisis
It is a basic precept of democracy that laws are crafted by legislative bodies, subject to vetoes by mayors, governors or presidents, and that laws cannot be imposed on citizens without going through this process. So how is it possible that governments in California are tied in knots by a legal theory that's treated as law even though it was never passed by the Legislature and signed by the governor?
San Diego Union-Tribune

Parolee pleads not guilty in sheriff's sergeant's killing
A parolee charged with gunning down a Los Angeles County sheriff's sergeant outside a Lancaster apartment complex two years ago and threatening the life of a deputy pleaded not guilty Wednesday to murder and other counts. Trenton Trevon Lovell, 29, of Lancaster, is charged with the execution-style killing of Sgt. Steve Owen, 53, who was shot five times on Oct. 5, 2016, in the 3200 block of West Avenue J-6.
My News LA

AB 1810 / Prop 47 / Prop 57 / AB 109

Criminal Justice Reform: CA assemblyman aims to "keep California safe"
Assemblyman Jim Cooper is passionate about keeping Californians safe. It's a message he made clear to me at the Independent Voter Project (IVP) conference in Hawaii. The former Sacramento County sheriff's captain is no stranger to criminal justice reform. Since he assumed office in 2014, Assemblyman Cooper has been on a mission to reform the system and, in his words, "make it more accountable to the perpetrators, and empower victims."
IVN

Community Medical Centers opens new recovery center
Community Medical Centers (CMC), in partnership with San Joaquin County Behavioral Health Services (SJCBHS), recently held an Open House for community partners, health professionals and local law enforcement to tour the new Recovery Center, a CMC program. The Recovery Center offers medical and behavioral assessment, sobering and treatment to individuals struggling with mental health and substance use issues.
Caravan News

The Scanner: Alameda prosecutor cites Quran as evidence to keep man jailed
An Alameda County prosecutor recently held up an unusual piece of evidence while arguing that a man charged with a weapons violation

should remain jailed without bail: a Quran. The religious text, paired with a book on the psychology of terrorism, as well as a sawed-off rifle - all allegedly found in Dajon Ford's car at the time of his arrest - was cause for concern, Assistant District Attorney Matthew Golde told Superior Court Judge Yolanda Northridge at an Oct. 19 bail hearing.
San Francisco Chronicle

Law Enforcement

If you drive in Los Angeles, the cops can track your every move
The LAPD has never divulged how many ALPR searches it conducts. But an email obtained by WIRED through the public record request says its police officers tapped the system 200 to 300 times a day in 2016. Los Angeles County sheriffs performed a similar number of searches through Palantir, according to the email. Police in Long Beach, the city south of LA, made an additional 30 searches a day. Together, the three departments make hundreds of thousands of searches a year.
Wired

FBI report shows 17 percent spike in hate crimes in 2017
Hate crimes across the United States spiked 17 percent in 2017 - marking a rise for the third straight year - with a 37 percent increase in anti-Semitic hate crimes, according to an FBI report released Tuesday. There were 7,175 reported hate crimes last year, up from 6,121 in 2016. The FBI's annual hate crimes report defines hate crimes as those motivated by bias based on a person's race, religion or sexual orientation, among other categories.
NBC4

County's hate crimes report cites 15% rise in anti-black attacks
African Americans were victims of 50 percent of hate crimes in Los Angeles County in 2017 with anti-Black assaults rising by 15 percent over 2016, from 112 to 129. The troubling statistics were revealed in the annual Hate Crimes Report issued by the L.A. County Human Relations Commission. The data was compiled from information collected from the law enforcement agencies in the county as well as some colleges, school districts, community-based organizations and victims.
Los Angeles Sentinel

Editorial: Hero officer makes ultimate sacrifice
As another horrific crime plays out, another law enforcement officer makes the ultimate sacrifice. This time it was Ventura County Sheriff Sgt. Ron Helus who was killed as he rushed in to the Borderline Bar & Grill to stop a mass shooting in Thousand Oaks, Calif. Helus was one year from retirement. Now he'll never see that day or his wife or 24-year-old son, Jason. Reaction to Helus' bravery and death in the line of duty has been widespread.
Boston Herald

New fraud alert warns of fake charity groups supporting first responders, LADA says
The latest fraud alert is warning Los Angeles County residents of scammers masquerading as charity groups claiming to raise money for first responders, according to the L.A. County District Attorney's Office on Friday. "Be wary of donating to groups that attempt to tug at your heartstrings in order to line their pockets," said Steven Wang, deputy district attorney, in a video attached to the D.A. Office's alert.
The Signal

From Zero to sixty: How an electric motorcycle startup is winning over police departments
Richard Ashcraft grew up strapped to the back of his dad's off-road motorcycle, sometimes literally lashed to his father in case he nodded off. A 20-year veteran of the Clovis Police Department in California's Central Valley, Cpl. Ashcraft got his motorcycle license before his driver's license. He knows how to ride. But even he was confused by the simplicity and quiet of Zero's electric motorcycle when he started using it on patrol.
Fast Company

Michael Avenatti arrested in Los Angeles, denies domestic violence accusations
Michael Avenatti, a vocal critic of President Donald Trump who rose to prominence as the attorney for porn star Stormy Daniels, was arrested and booked on a felony domestic violence charge on Wednesday. Hours after being taken into custody on the same block where he lives in a skyscraper apartment, Avenatti posted $50,000 bail and strongly denied wrongdoing as he left the Los Angeles Police Department.
USA Today

Where cop cars double as ambulances
Ian Hirst-Hermans lay on the ground bleeding from a gunshot wound to his chest. He had been shot after leaving a house party just after 2 a.m. Within seconds, as he remembers, a police car came racing down the one-way North Philadelphia street in the wrong direction. Two cops jumped out and, with the help of his friend, lifted Hirst-Hermans into the back. Blood pooled beneath the 20-year-old on the hard plastic backseat. He was sure he was going to die.
The Trace

L.A. County sheriff's team violated civil rights of drivers on 5 Freeway, inspector general says
Los Angeles County's inspector general said Thursday that a Sheriff's Department team that pulled over thousands of innocent Latino motorists on the 5 Freeway in search of drugs violated the constitutional rights of drivers, and he questioned the reason for the unit's existence. In a damning verbal report to the department's civilian oversight panel,

Max Huntsman criticized Sheriff's Department officials for inadequate supervision of the highway drug unit and for failing to take heed of several federal court rulings that found the deputies on the team violated the rights of motorists by detaining them longer than was reasonable.
Los Angeles Times

Criminal Justice / Public Safety

L.A. County Sheriff's Deputy, 2 others accused of robbing marijuana warehouse during bogus raid

A Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy and two other men are accused of carrying out an armed robbery at a downtown Los Angeles marijuana warehouse last week while falsely posing as legitimate law enforcement officers serving a search warrant, authorities said. Deputy Mark Antrim, 41, of South El Monte, who is assigned to the sheriff's Temple City Station, is scheduled to appear in federal court in Los Angeles Friday along with co-defendants Eric "Rooster" Rodriguez, 32, of Adelanto and Kevin McBride, 43, of Glendora, the U.S. Department of Justice said in a written statement.
KTLA

2 arrested for looting in Ventura County Woolsey Fire evacuation zone, officials say

Two people have been arrested on suspicion of looting in the evacuated area of Ventura County, according to law enforcement officials. Sgt. Eric Buschow with the Ventura County Sheriff's Office said in a news conference Saturday the arrests were made in connection with two instances of looting, and one of the arrests involved a chase.
ABC7

Thieves steal identity of woman paralyzed in car wreck

It's a crime that's creating tremendous outrage in the Inland Empire. Riverside Police have released surveillance photos of a woman who is accused of using stolen credit cards. Those credit cards came from a purse that was stolen from the passenger seat of a wrecked car, moments after the collision, as a severely-injured woman sat in the driver's seat. Now the victim's husband is asking for help finding the suspects who stole his wife's identity.
NBC4

Stockton man allegedly trafficked San Jose woman he met on Instagram

A Stockton man has been charged with sex trafficking after forcing a San Jose woman he met on Instagram into a life of prostitution all over the western United States, authorities say. He was eventually caught after the woman he was exploiting contacted the county's Law Enforcement to Investigate Human Trafficking Task Force, according to the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office.

Bay Area News Group

Are Americans finally turning away from 'tough-on-crime' era?
Democrat John Creuzot, who defeated Republican incumbent Faith Johnson in the Dallas County District Attorney's race last week, had a campaign website that declared in big, bold letters, "It's time to END Mass Incarceration." Republican Locke Thompson ran a successful campaign in Cole County, Missouri, with a campaign platform that included eliminating cash bail for low-level misdemeanors.
The Crime Report

Concern over fires originating in homeless encampments (Video)
Multiple fires have originated in homeless encampments in Southern California. Eric Leonard and the I-Team report for the NBC4 News at 6 p.m. on Nov. 14, 2018.
NBC4

LAPD Chief Moore acknowledges investigation into assistant chief
Los Angeles Police Chief Michel Moore spoke publicly for the first time Tuesday regarding the allegations facing one of his assistant chiefs. Last month, Assistant Chief Jorge Villegas, a 29-year veteran of the department, suddenly announced that he is retiring. The move came just a week before a report surfaced that Villegas is under investigation by LAPD Internal Affairs for allegedly having inappropriate sexual relationships with officers in his command.
CBS LA

Leftists incorrectly assume arson fire at CA progressive HQ was politically motivated
On Tuesday, law enforcement arrested a homeless man who admitted to starting a fire that destroyed the San Diego headquarters of a California community organizing network. Police said the arson was not politically motivated despite early speculation that the blaze was set as an act of intimidation related to the organization's progressive activism.
The Daily Wire

Deputies who responded to Parkland tragedy hadn't had active shooter training in years, investigators found
Some Broward sheriff's deputies couldn't remember the last time they attended mass-shooter training. Others couldn't recall what they'd learned when they did attend, investigators reviewing the Marjory Stoneman Douglas school shooting found. A report prepared for a fact-finding commission tasked with uncovering systemic problems in the police response found fault with BSO's preparedness for the Feb. 14 massacre.
South Florida Sun Sentinel

Convictions / Sentences

Former LASD recruit gets 180 days in jail for stealing $110,000, burning ATM
A one-time recruit of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department who lives in the Santa Clarita Valley was sentenced late last week to 180 days in jail after he pleaded no contest to one felony count each of arson and grand theft, with an enhancement that the value exceeded $65,000. Julio Cesar Jimenez, 35, of Santa Clarita, who was arrested on Feb. 15 and described at the time in an L.A. County Sheriff's Department news release as a newly hired recruit, appeared Friday in San Fernando Superior Court.
The Signal

More prison time for DMV fraudsters caught up in fake truck licensing scheme
Two men were sentenced to prison Friday in federal court in Sacramento as part of a continuing FBI investigation of fraud within the California DMV, prosecutors said. DMV employee Robert Turchin, 68, of Salinas was sentenced to six years and six months and Pavittar Dosangh Singh, 57, of Flowood, Miss., was sentenced to 10 months, according to a press release from U.S. Attorney McGregor W. Scott.
Sacramento Bee

Army mechanic found guilty in Southern California triple homicide with ties to furry community
A 23-year-old Army mechanic who confessed to killing a Fullerton couple and their friend in order to "save" a teen he believed was being sexually abused was convicted Thursday of first-degree murder. A Santa Ana jury convicted Joshua Acosta of the special circumstances killings of Christopher Yost, 34, his wife, Jennifer Yost, 39, and their friend, Arthur "Billy" Boucher, 28, who prosecutors said were ambushed and executed while they slept in a Fullerton home in the early morning of Sept. 24, 2016.
Southern California News Group

Sitter who left boy in 120-degree car for hours sentenced
An Alhambra babysitter who left a little boy locked in a hot car for roughly twos hour while she dined at a restaurant pleaded no contest Friday to misdemeanor child endangerment Friday. Helen Law, 60, was immediately ordered to complete parenting classes and placed on three years probation. Superior Court Judge Cathryn Brougham also ordered Law to abide by a 10-year criminal protective order involving the boy, according to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.
City News Service/South Pasadena Patch

Seven plead no contest to resisting officers after street race
Five young men who stood on a South Los Angeles street and blocked a patrol car from chasing a hit-and-run suspect after a street race were sentenced to jail time, and two others must perform community service,

the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced Friday. Brian Douglas Dion Jr., 22, of Gardena, and Kylee Michael Carter, also 22, whose hometown was not known, were each sentenced to 90 days in county jail immediately after their pleas to a felony count of resisting an executive officer, according to the District Attorney's Office.
My News LA

Los Angeles County

Trump blames fires, erroneously, on California forest management. Firefighters call it a 'shameful attack'
California firefighters criticized President Trump for a tweet Saturday that incorrectly stated that this week's devastating fires were the result of poor forest management. "There is no reason for these massive, deadly and costly forest fires in California except that forest management is so poor. Billions of dollars are given each year, with so many lives lost, all because of gross mismanagement of the forests. Remedy now, or no more Fed payments!" Trump wrote.
Los Angeles Times

L.A. County officials highlight success of fight against sex trafficking
Los Angeles County's victim-centered, trauma-informed approach to combating the commercial sexual exploitation of children has taken root and is transforming young lives, authorities said Tuesday. The county's first responder protocol, begun four years ago, focuses law enforcement efforts on targeting pimps and johns for arrest and humiliation, while recognizing that children are victims in need of support services.
My News LA

Barger motion adds health care to improve outcomes for youth in criminal justice system
The Board of Supervisors approved a motion by Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th District, co-authored by Supervisor Hilda Solis, 1st District, to incorporate a holistic approach to care for young people in county probation halls and camps. Barger's motion creates a new leadership position within the Department of Mental Health, the director of coordinated care for juvenile health, who will work in collaboration with the Probation Department's Juvenile Services unit to facilitate a continuum of care equipped to address each individual's needs.
Beverly Press

County supervisors move ahead with plan to reuse County General Hospital as housing
The hospital could help fill a "tremendous need." The 1930s-era Los Angeles County General Hospital that rises 19 stories above the northern edge of Boyle Heights has sat largely unused since 2008. Now the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors is moving forward with

plans to reuse the 1.5-million-square-foot hospital as housing for "high-need populations," including homeless residents and low-income tenants.
Inglewood Today

Watchdog group wants L.A. County Sheriff's Department to stop giving ICE access to jails
Members of a watchdog group signaled on Thursday they want the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to take more powerful steps to distance itself from the work of federal immigration enforcement agents. A series of preliminary recommendations by the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission called for the department to bar jail access to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials and stop honoring ICE's requests to detain inmates, except when required by law.
Los Angeles Times

Elections

What does Villanueva's new 22,000 vote lead over Mcdonnell for Sheriff tell us? - Updated
The numbers in the race for Los Angeles County Sheriff continue to be head spinning. As most of you know, as of around 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday of this week, dark horse challenger Alex Villanueva, who is hoping to lead the nation's largest sheriff's department, has acquired a 22,192 vote lead over incumbent Sheriff Jim McDonnell. UPDATE: As of Friday afternoon, that total has raised to a 57,810 for Villanueva over McDonnell.
Witness LA

Presumptive DA-elect Todd Spitzer gets green light from District Attorney Tony Rackauckas to start transitioning office
Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas gave the go-ahead Tuesday, Nov. 13 for presumptive DA-elect Todd Spitzer and his transition team to work with high-ranking prosecutors to take over the office in January. Spitzer, a county supervisor and former prosecutor and state assemblyman, led by 5 percent after the Nov. 6 polling, and his lead grew to 6.6 percent Tuesday evening with 261,600 late ballots yet to be counted.
Orange County Register

Vacant governor's mansion + Bail measure has the votes + California Priorities summit today
Don't expect the Newsoms to take up residence in the governor's mansion any time soon. Fresh off her husband's election this week as California governor, Jennifer Siebel Newsom said Thursday that she and Gavin Newsom would decide whether to move their family to Sacramento once the school year ends. They currently live in Marin County with their four young children.
Sacramento Bee

Dick Spotswood: Marin voters seem to be satisfied with the status quo
Life is good in Marin and from the result of last Tuesday's election it's clear voters want to keep it that way. Big changes were rejected and all tax measures - whether for roads, municipal services, fire protection or schools - easily prevailed. The ballot's marquee race was the contest between Deputy District Attorney Lori Frugoli and adjunct law professor Anna Pletcher for district attorney.
Marin Independent Journal

Election Day results: No 'blue wave' or big upsets in Coachella Valley
For the Coachella Valley and surrounding areas, not many surprises came out of Tuesday's midterm elections. Incumbents mostly won re-election - from congressional representatives and state legislators to county supervisors and city council members. And despite "blue wave" upsets in other parts of the state and country, locally the result looked a lot like past midterm elections.
Palm Springs Desert Sun

Consumers

Amazon fakes, fraud and scams await Black Friday shoppers
Black Friday shoppers looking for a good deal on Amazon may get much less than they bargained for. Consumers can no longer expect that Amazon is a safe and honest marketplace to buy authentic, safe goods -- it's not. When shopping on Amazon, the mantra of the day is clearly "buyer beware." Amazon's marketplace is a free-flowing conduit that enables and facilitates the exact same "bad actors" who have long polluted China's e-commerce ecosystem to flood Amazon with counterfeit, fake and replica products.
The Counterfeit Report

Police warn scammers and looters to stay away from Woolsey fire victims
Authorities are warning scammers and looters who would take advantage of fire victims and those trying to help them, are warned to stay away. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Sgt. Aura Sierra advised Good Samaritans to beware of charity scams trying to take advantage of their good will. The department tweeted for givers to look for charities that are established for their work with first responders, such as the Red Cross, the United Way and the Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation.
Orange County Register

The little-known Amazon warehouse practice that's creating a counterfeit nightmare
Imagine what Christmas morning would be like if your kids unwrapped

their brand-new Beats headphones or Xbox only to find that they were defective knock-offs. If you think this is the stuff of urban legend, think again: Given the growing number of counterfeits hiding in plain sight within Amazon's massive commerce and distribution network, scenes like this one are playing out with increasing frequency.
NWI

Corrections

California inmates risking lives for $2 a day to work with firefighters combating wildfires
By now, most people have probably read about the vicious California wildfires plaguing areas of both Northern and Southern California. The fires have reportedly become so widespread that firefighters have been working around the clock - sometimes 24-hour shifts - to contain the smoldering blazes. The workload is now so overwhelming that California firefighters have formed an unconventional partnership with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation by enlisting the help of inmate firefighters.
Inquisitr

Ninth Circuit blasts California on long wait times for mentally ill prisoners
Suicide rates remain "sky-high" among California prisoners with mental illness, an attorney told a Ninth Circuit panel Tuesday, because the state refuses to adhere to its own timeframes for providing them with psychiatric care. All three judges on the panel appeared to disagree with the state's argument that failing to comply 100 percent with timeframes ranging between 24 hours and 30 days for transferring inmates between levels of care doesn't amount to cruel and unusual punishment.
Courthouse News Service

Eleven inmates sent to hospitals after riots break out at two California state prisons
Eleven California prison inmates were sent to hospitals after two separate riots broke out in less than 30 minutes of each other at Pleasant Valley and Avenal state prisons on Wednesday afternoon. The first riot sparked inside Pleasant Valley State Prison in Coalinga at 12:36 p.m. and involved 134 inmates, according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.
San Francisco Chronicle

California / National

California has 'extraordinary' budget surplus, analysts say
Good news for Gov.-elect Gavin Newsom: California's budget is in "remarkably good shape," according to a forecast for the coming fiscal year that the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office released Wednesday. The forecast estimates that the state will have a $14.8

billion surplus during the 2019-20 fiscal year on top of $14.5 billion in rainy day savings. "By historical standards, this surplus is extraordinary," the analyst's office wrote.
SF Gate

California wildfires start in the woods. Why do cities keep burning?
The Camp Fire - the state's most destructive and deadliest - began Thursday in a wild and wooded part of unincorporated Butte County before demolishing the Northern California town of Paradise, leaving at least 76 people dead and most of the town's homes burned to cinders. It was a rural fire that turned into an urban nightmare - an increasingly common occurrence in California.
Sacramento Bee

Trial evidence shows how USC became ensnared in college basketball bribery and corruption scandal
The middleman sounded nervous. On a September morning 15 months ago, Christian Dawkins finished writing the business plan for his fledgling sports management and marketing company. He called it Loyd Inc., shorthand for Living Out Your Dreams. The 4 1/2-page document included proposed payments to associates of 19 college and high school basketball players to persuade them to retain the company as professionals.
Los Angeles Times

Dan Walters: Election boosted advocates of higher taxes
This month's election was good news for those who believe Californians' taxes, while already among the nation's highest, should be increased. Voters elected Gavin Newsom, who has an expansive and expensive agenda, as governor, and also solidified Democrats' supermajorities in the Legislature, giving them, at least on paper, unfettered power to raise taxes for that agenda.
Davis Enterprise

Janus Decision

Special education teacher files lawsuit for blocking his attempt to leave the United Teachers of Los Angeles
Special education teacher Thomas Few has filed a lawsuit against the United Teachers of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Unified School District for violating his First Amendment rights to free speech and freedom of association. Few is represented by attorneys from the Liberty Justice Center and the California Policy Center.
Orange County Breeze

Union dues ruling by Supreme Court not a CTA headache yet
The U.S. Supreme Court's June decision in the Janus v. AFSCME case that public employees couldn't be compelled to pay union dues was

widely seen as a game-changing moment in U.S. politics. The coverage on The Atlantic website was typical. It called the decision, which stemmed from a lawsuit brought by Illinois state employee Mark Janus, a "huge blow" to public sector unions and suggested the decision had the potential to "end" such unions in America.
CalWatchdog

National right to work foundation legal notice: Requirements claiming to block resignation of union membership violate First Amendment
In response to a Puerto Rico superior court ruling purporting to require executive branch employees to wait up to a year before resigning from a union and ending dues payments, National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation staff attorneys have issued a Special Legal Notice for all Puerto Rico government employees who wish to exercise their right to cut off support for a union.
National Right To Work Legal Defense Foundation

Guns

Thousand Oaks shooting: Why didn't California's strict gun laws stop it?
The Wednesday night shooting massacre at a Thousand Oaks country music bar was the kind of tragedy that would seem more likely in states such as Nevada or Florida known for permissive gun regulations that allow military-style semiautomatic rifles and high-capacity ammunition magazines. But it happened in California, seen as a model for firearm regulation and the only state given an "A" rating by the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence's annual gun law score card.
Bay Area Newsgroup

California Gov.-Elect Gavin Newsom repeats call to ban high-capacity gun magazines
Gov.-elect Gavin Newsom repeated his call this week for a ban on high-capacity gun magazines following the shooting in Thousand Oaks that killed 12 people. California voters in 2016 passed a law to ban possession of magazines that carry more than 10 rounds. That effort was spearheaded by Newsom. But a lawsuit by gun rights groups has blocked it from going into effect.
Capital Public Radio

California shooting follows election of gun control advocate as governor
This week's fatal shooting of 12 people in a California bar by a Marine combat veteran came the day after the election of a new Democratic governor who has pushed for tighter gun control in the state, which already has some of the strictest firearms laws in the country. Ian David Long, 28, used a .45 caliber Glock handgun equipped with a high-capacity magazine to mow down patrons late on Wednesday in the bar

and dance hall filled with college students, authorities said.
Reuters

California is already tough on guns. After a mass shooting, some wonder if it's enough
After a mass killing in Santa Barbara in 2014, California passed a law that let police officers and family members seek restraining orders to seize guns from troubled people. A year later, a shooting rampage in San Bernardino led to voters approving a ballot proposition to outlaw expanded magazines for guns and require background checks for buying ammunition.
New York Times

Most Californians who own 'assault rifles' have 10+ guns
The AR-15 has been called "America's rifle," a weapon emblematic of our national gun culture. But a new survey finds that in the country's most populous state, a small contingent of hardcore collectors own the vast majority of ARs and other so-called assault rifles. The research, published by the Violence Prevention Research Center at the University of California-Davis, found that four out of five assault rifles in the state are owned by people who own 10 or more guns.
The Trace

Marijuana

2 men killed in shooting at Koreatown marijuana dispensary
Two men died in a shooting in the lobby of a Koreatown marijuana dispensary early Monday, authorities said. The gunfire broke out about 4:20 a.m. at the facility in the 400 block of South Western Avenue, the Los Angeles Police Department said in a written statement. "(An) employee stated that she was inside the dispensary, along with several customers, when she heard shots fired in the waiting room," according to the statement.
KTLA

Pensions

California teacher pension fund pulls money out of immigrant detention centers
California's teacher pension fund is pulling its investments out of two private prison companies that have contracts to house immigrants detained at the Mexican border. The California State Teachers' Retirement Board last week voted to withdraw about $12 million it had invested in CoreCivic of Nashville, Tennessee and Geo Group of Boca Raton, Florida.
Sacramento Bee

Court date set for California Rule pension arguments
The California Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in the first of five

pension cases that may challenge a series of rulings protecting pensions in the state. The high court announced Thursday that it would hear arguments Dec. 5 in Los Angeles in CalFire Local 2881, et al. v. CalPERS, et al., the first of the five pending vested rights cases before it.
The Bond Buyer

Outgoing California governor seeks court decision on pension reform
As teachers, school districts, and state taxpayers are shelling out more each year to try to salvage California's teacher pension program, California Gov. Jerry Brown is asking the state's supreme court to relax some of the pension guarantees that are placing a greater burden on school districts most of all, EdSource reports.
Education Dive

CalPERS slashed their pensions. Now they're trying to get their money back
The first California retirees to lose a cut of their pensions because of financial mismanagement by a local government are suing CalPERS in a bid to force the $350 billion fund to restore their income. The three retirees from the tiny Sierra County town of Loyalton filed their lawsuit in September, nine months after the city cut off a supplemental payment it had been giving to them since the California Public Employees' Retirement System slashed their pensions in late 2016.
Sacramento Bee

For more ADDA news and information, visit www.laadda.com.

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